

CURRENT LISTING OF CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

Claims 1 to 14 Cancelled

15. (Currently Amended) A flat garment for applying compression to a body part limb, said garment comprising:

a. a flat central region having inner and outer surfaces, said central region comprising substantially inelastic material, and lateral regions disposed on opposite sides of the central region;

b. a plurality of bands extending from said opposite lateral regions, each of said bands comprising

i. a planar distal region

ii. proximal and distal edges, wherein one or both edges comprise a curve or indentation.

iii. inner and outer surfaces,

iv. a fastener for detachably securing said distal region to a band extending from the opposite lateral region or to the opposite lateral or central region so as to encircle the body part limb and to draw the first lateral region toward the second longitudinal edge to stretch the central region and thereby provide a tension in the garment that will compress the body part limb.

16. (Previously Presented) The garment according to claim 15 wherein the central and lateral regions are biased into a three-dimensional curvature in order to fit the body part.

17. (Previously Presented) The garment of claim 16 wherein said opposing bands extend substantially perpendicular to a longitudinal axis of said central region, and said proximal and distal edges are substantially parallel to each other.

18. (Previously Presented) The garment of claim 16 in which wrapping engagement involves juxtaposition of at least a portion of the edges of each band with the edges of one or more opposing bands.

19. (Previously Presented) The garment of claim 16 in which wrapping engagement involves overlapping engagement of at least a portion of the upper and lower surfaces of opposing bands.

20 (Previously Presented) The garment of claim 15 wherein said plurality of bands are spaced-apart from each other and extend from each of said opposite lateral regions, wherein the positions from which adjacent bands extend from a lateral region are spaced apart.

21 (Previously Presented) The garment of claim 15 wherein each of said bands extend from a lateral region at an angle with respect to a longitudinal axis of the central region, and said angle is independently selected for each band.

22. (Previously Presented) The garment of claim 21 wherein
at least one set of opposing bands extends substantially perpendicular to a longitudinal axis of said central region, and said proximal and distal edges are substantially parallel to each other, and in which wrapping engagement involves overlapping engagement of at least a portion of the upper and lower surfaces of opposing bands; and
at least one set of opposing bands extends at a non-normal angle to the longitudinal axis of the central region, in which the proximal and distal edges are substantially parallel to each other, and in which wrapping engagement involves overlapping engagement of at least a portion of the upper and lower surfaces of opposing bands.

23. (Currently Amended) The garment of claim 15 for applying compression to a body part ~~part of the body~~ and having a system for measuring compression wherein said outer surface bears indicia printed thereon wherein measurement of a position of at least one of the indicia relative to a reference position on the outer surface provides a measurement of the stretch of the elastic material.

24. (Previously Presented) The garment of claim 23 further comprising a card having a scale for measuring the separation of the position of the at least one indicia from the reference position and providing the compression level for the pre-measured circumference of the body part in order to determine the actual compression provided by the garment and adjusting the compression provided by the garment accordingly.

25. (Withdrawn) The garment according to claim 15 further comprising a pocket attached to the garment adjacent at least the distal end of a band, the pocket having a compartment sized to admit at least one finger inserted through an opening in the pocket that faces in a direction substantially away from the distal end of the band, whereby a person can urge the end of the band around the body part by inserting at least one finger through the opening into the compartment of the pocket and pushing or pulling with the at least one finger toward the opposite side of the garment.

26. (Currently Amended) A flat garment for applying compression to a body part limb, said garment comprising:

a. a flat central region having inner and outer surfaces, said central region comprising substantially inelastic material, and lateral regions disposed on opposite sides of the central region;

b. a plurality of bands extending from said opposite lateral regions, said bands spaced-apart from each other and extending from spaced-apart positions along each of said opposite lateral regions, each of said bands comprising:

- i. a planar distal region
- ii. proximal and distal straight edges,
- iii. inner and outer surfaces,
- iv. a fastener for detachably securing said distal region to a band

extending from the opposite lateral region or to the opposite lateral or central region so as to encircle the body part limb and to draw the first lateral region toward the second longitudinal edge to stretch the central region and thereby provide a tension in the garment that will compress the body part limb.

27. (Previously Presented) The garment according to claim 26 wherein the central and lateral regions are biased into a three-dimensional curvature in order to fit the body part.

28. (Previously Presented) The garment of claim 27 wherein said opposing bands extend substantially perpendicular to a longitudinal axis of said central region, and said proximal and distal edges are substantially parallel to each other.

29. (Previously Presented) The garment of claim 26 in which wrapping engagement involves juxtaposition of at least a portion of the edges of each band with the edges of one or more opposing bands.

30. (Previously Presented) The garment of claim 26 in which wrapping engagement involves overlapping engagement of at least a portion of the upper and lower surfaces of opposing bands.

31. (Previously Presented) The garment of claim 26 wherein each of said bands extend from a lateral region at an angle with respect to a longitudinal axis of the central region, and said angle is independently selected for each band..

32. (Previously Presented) The garment of claim 31 wherein
at least one set of opposing bands extends substantially perpendicular to a longitudinal axis of said central region, and said proximal and distal edges are substantially parallel to each other, and in which wrapping engagement involves overlapping engagement of at least a portion of the upper and lower surfaces of opposing bands; and

at least one set of opposing bands extends at a non-normal angle to the longitudinal axis of the central region, in which the proximal and distal edges are substantially parallel to each other, and in which wrapping engagement involves overlapping engagement of at least a portion of the upper and lower surfaces of opposing bands.

33. (Currently Amended) The garment of claim 27 for applying compression to a body part ~~part of the body~~ and having a system for measuring compression wherein said outer surface bears indicia printed thereon wherein measurement of a position of at least one of the

indicia relative to a reference position on the outer surface provides a measurement of the stretch of the elastic material.

34. (Previously Presented) The garment of claim 33 further comprising a card having a scale for measuring the separation of the position of the at least one indicia from the reference position and providing the compression level for the pre-measured circumference of the body part in order to determine the actual compression provided by the garment and adjusting the compression provided by the garment accordingly.

35. (Withdrawn) The garment according to claim 26 further comprising a pocket attached to the garment adjacent at least the distal end of a band, the pocket having a compartment sized to admit at least one finger inserted through an opening in the pocket that faces in a direction substantially away from the distal end of the band, whereby a person can urge the end of the band around the body part by inserting at least one finger through the opening into the compartment of the pocket and pushing or pulling with the at least one finger toward the opposite side of the garment.

36. (Currently Amended) A method for applying therapeutic compression to a body part for treating a medical disorder which requires compression therapy, comprising the step of applying to said body part a garment, said garment comprising :

a. a flat central region having inner and outer surfaces, said central region comprising substantially inelastic material, and lateral regions disposed on opposite sides of the central region;

b. a plurality of bands extending from said opposite lateral regions, each of said bands comprising

i. a planar distal region
ii. proximal and distal edges, wherein one or both edges comprise a curve or indentation.

iii. inner and outer surfaces,
iv. a fastener for detachably securing said distal region to a band extending from the opposite lateral region or to the opposite lateral or central region so as to

encircle the body part limb and to draw the first lateral region toward the second longitudinal edge to stretch the central region and thereby provide a tension in the garment that will compress the body part limb.

37. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 36 wherein said medical disorder is selected from the group consisting of lymphedema, phlebitis, varicose veins, post fracture edema, injury edema, stasis ulcers, obesity, circulatory disorders, and post-burn therapy.

38. (Withdrawn) A method for applying therapeutic compression to a body part comprising the step of applying to said body part a garment, said garment comprising :

- a. measuring a circumference of the body part;
- b. placing a therapeutic garment around said body part, said garment comprising:

a flat central region having inner and outer surfaces, said central region comprising substantially inelastic material, and lateral regions disposed on opposite sides of the central region;

a plurality of bands extending from said opposite lateral regions, each of said bands comprising

- i. a planar distal region
- ii. proximal and distal edges, wherein one or both edges comprise a curve or indentation.

iii. inner and outer surfaces,
iv. a fastener for detachably securing said distal region to a band extending from the opposite lateral region or to the opposite lateral or central region so as to encircle the limb and to draw the first lateral region toward the second longitudinal edge to stretch the central region and thereby provide a tension in the garment that will compress the limb.

- c. tensioning the garment to provide compression to the body part; measuring the stretch of the elastic material;
- d. selecting a compression scale appropriate to the measured circumference of the body part; and

e. reading the compression scale to determine the compression provided to the body part.

39. (Previously Presented) A method for applying therapeutic compression to a body part for treating a medical disorder which requires compression therapy, comprising the step of applying to said body part a garment, said garment comprising :

a. a flat central region having inner and outer surfaces, said central region comprising substantially inelastic material, and lateral regions disposed on opposite sides of the central region;

b. a plurality of bands extending from said opposite lateral regions, said bands spaced-apart from each other and extending from spaced-apart positions along each of said opposite lateral regions, each of said bands comprising:

i. a planar distal region

ii. proximal and distal straight edges,

iii. inner and outer surfaces,

iv. a fastener for detachably securing said distal region to a band extending from the opposite lateral region or to the opposite lateral or central region so as to encircle the body part limb and to draw the first lateral region toward the second longitudinal edge to stretch the central region and thereby provide a tension in the garment that will compress the body part limb.

40. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 39 wherein said medical disorder is selected from the group consisting of lymphedema, phlebitis, varicose veins, post fracture edema, injury edema, stasis ulcers, obesity, circulatory disorders, and post-burn therapy.

41. (Withdrawn) A method for applying therapeutic compression to a body part comprising the step of applying to said body part a garment, said garment comprising :

a. measuring a circumference of the body part;

b. placing a therapeutic garment around said body part, said garment comprising:

a flat central region having inner and outer surfaces, said central region

comprising substantially inelastic material, and lateral regions disposed on opposite sides of the central region;

a plurality of bands extending from said opposite lateral regions, each of said bands comprising

i. a flat central region having inner and outer surfaces, said central region comprising substantially inelastic material, and lateral regions disposed on opposite sides of the central region;

ii. a plurality of bands extending from said opposite lateral regions, said bands spaced-apart from each other and extending from spaced-apart positions along each of said opposite lateral regions, each of said bands comprising:

i. a planar distal region

ii. proximal and distal straight edges,

iii. inner and outer surfaces,

iv. a fastener for detachably securing said distal region to a band

extending from the opposite lateral region or to the opposite lateral or central region so as to encircle the limb and to draw the first lateral region toward the second longitudinal edge to stretch the central region and thereby provide a tension in the garment that will compress the limb.

c. tensioning the garment to provide compression to the body part;
measuring the stretch of the elastic material;

d. selecting a compression scale appropriate to the measured circumference of the body part; and

e. reading the compression scale to determine the compression provided to the body part.

42. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 41 wherein said medical disorder is selected from the group consisting of lymphedema, phlebitis, varicose veins, post fracture edema, injury edema, stasis ulcers, obesity, circulatory disorders, and post-burn therapy.